

Hawaii MARINE

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OCTOBER 1, 2004

3rd Radio Battalion returns

Home from the desert

Story and Photos By
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Sports Editor

As Operation Iraqi Freedom II continues on its path in the Persian Gulf, 95 Marines and Sailors from 3rd Radio Battalion returned home to MCB Hawaii Sept. 23, after completing a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

These Marines and Sailors are the last large group from 3rd Radio Battalion to return to MCB Hawaii after being replaced by 2nd Radio Battalion, Camp Lejeune, N.C.

According to 1st Lt. Joseph O'Connor,

assistant operations officer, 3rd Radio Battalion, the final rear party will return in a few weeks, after verifying that all gear will return safely.

"These Marines and Sailors deployed in support of the 1st Marine Expeditionary Force, and provided special communications for the general, his staff and subordinate commands," said O'Connor. "We are all extremely proud of our men and women. We know how fortunate we are that we brought back every Marine and Sailor we deployed, safely, and how much we owe to our leadership for that accomplishment." The unit's personnel began preparing for

their return more than two weeks ago. Various stages had to be completed before they were able to gratefully step foot back onto their home soil.

According to O'Connor, their final stage was completing the lengthy flight back to the states on a civilian-contracted flight, but they were comfortable all the way home.

"The entire command offers its heartfelt condolences to those units who were not so fortunate [to bring all their men home safe]," said O'Connor.

More than 100 family members and friends waited at the common area by 3rd Radio Battalion headquarters that evening,

See 3rd RADIO, A-5



Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Petty Officer 3rd Class Jennifer Haseman (right), a corpsman for 3rd Radio Battalion, hugs her former roommate, Petty Officer 3rd Class Katie Clifford, after returning from a seven-month deployment to Iraq Sept. 23.

31st MEU hits land

1st Lt.
Tryiokasus W. Brown

31st MEU

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — Four weeks after the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit loaded onto amphibious ships at White Beach Naval Facility, the Marine Corps' only permanently forward deployed MEU arrived at Kuwait Naval Base for desert sustainment training.

The MEU departed from its home base in Okinawa, Japan, stopping in Kuwait to start a series of training exercises designed to sharpen unit level skills and get personnel acclimated to operating conditions in the desert.

"I am extremely proud of the focus shown by the Marines down to the last Pfc. and Seaman," said Col. Walter L. Miller, 31st MEU, commanding officer. "Our focus is on being prepared, being hard and fighting smart."

Operating within the U.S. Central Command's area of operations, the MEU is part of the security cooperation with neighboring countries in the Northern Arabian Gulf, guarding against pirates, smuggling and possible terrorist attacks.

"The Marines are preparing for potential operations within U.S. Central Command's area of operations," Capt. Michael D. Butler, 31st MEU training officer, said. "We will concentrate on [Marine Air Ground Task Force] training, small unit training to include, convoy operations, patrolling and live-firing."

After completion of its training, the MEU will remain in the gulf for possible contingency operations related to the Global War on Terrorism.

Through the woods



Pfc. Rich Mattingly

Pfc. Daniel Chandler, a Hawthorne, N.J. native and rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, torques on his rope while constructing a rope bridge with his fellow leathernecks at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. "America's Battalion" is wrapping up training at Bridgeport in preparation for an upcoming deployment to the Middle East. See full story on A-6.

Pearl Harbor survivor laid to rest

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Combat Correspondent

FORD ISLAND, Honolulu — Richard McCoy laid his father, Marine Tech. Sgt. Charles A. McCoy, a Pearl Harbor survivor, in his final resting place here at the USS Utah memorial Tuesday.

Tech. Sgt. McCoy enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1940, and attended Marine recruit training at Parris Island recruit depot in South Carolina. He was sent to Pearl Harbor in August of 1941 where he was assigned with the Third Defense Battalion, housed in the Marine barracks.

On the morning of Dec. 7, 1941 he had just arrived at Hickam Field for flight lessons. The attack changed all those plans and upset the future, as it did for nearly everyone that day. Thirty years went by before he was licensed to fly.

McCoy was commended for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor by Brig. Gen. Harry K. Pickett, for "a cool and orderly procedure of getting anti-aircraft weapons into effective action by immediately taking steps to set up and man anti-aircraft guns and performing numerous other duties incident to active operations against the enemy."

The noncommissioned officer-in-charge had

See MCCOY, A-4



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Marines with the ceremonial detail prepare to present the flag and remains during a military honors ceremony for the late Marine Tech. Sgt. Charles A. McCoy Tuesday at the USS Utah memorial.

FAPs complete training

Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Combat Correspondent

(Part three of a four-part series.)

In the last leg of training before graduating from their preservice training Friday, future gate sentries faced more than 20 hours of classroom instruction and practical application on subjects such as; identity jurisdiction, suspect's rights, physical security, base regulations and community oriented policing.

"The training we received is greatly beneficial for our jobs over the next few months," said Sgt. William B. Galloway, platoon guide for Echo Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment.

Although everything learned, from classroom instruction on military police ethics to how to conduct vehicle searches, is valuable knowledge to learn, most trainees agree, that they won't feel 100 percent confident until they physically perform what they were

See FAPS, A-4

Shearwaters need room to fly

Cpl. Jessica M. Mills

Sports Editor



WEDGE-TAILED SHEARWATER

From October until January, the Wedge-tailed Shearwater (a medium-sized seabird) protected under the federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act, will be in its fledgling season across Oahu.

During this time period, the number of stranded bird cases aboard the base will increase significantly, according to the Game Warden's Office here.

A warning has been issued to base residents, employees and patrons not to have any contact with these birds, no matter where they are found.

"If you find one of these Shearwaters in your area, do not touch it or try to pick it up at all," said Larry Trott, auxiliary game warden for the Provost Marshals Office. "Also, do not try to feed it or give it any water whatsoever."

See SHEARWATER, A-5

News Briefs

State Alert to Sound Today

The State Civil Defense monthly test of sirens and the Emergency Alert System will be held today at 11:45 a.m. The siren test is a steady 45-second tone, used to alert the public of emergencies that pose or may pose a threat to life and property.

Waikiki Road Closure

Kalakaua Avenue will be closed from 6:30 to 9 a.m. Sunday due to the 5th Annual Niketown 5 race. Other streets affected will be Monsarrat, Paki and Kapahulu Avenues.

MMOA Hawaii Visit

The Manpower Management Officer Assignments visit is scheduled for Oct. 12 – 14. Officer monitors will be available for individual interviews and counseling during the visit.

PWMA Accepts Brick Orders

Due to continued interest in the “Walkway of Honor” bricks located at the Pacific War Memorial adjacent the entrance to MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay, the Pacific War Memorial Association is accepting orders online at www.PacificWarMemorial.org, or call 533-3759. Orders will be accepted until Dec. 15.

Hawaii Marine Seeks Reader Input

Do you, your unit or organization have a story idea? Do you have photographs (action shots), information or announcements about an upcoming event or activity? Would you like the *Hawaii Marine* to focus on a specific topic? Write to us at editor@hawaiimarine.com and let us know how we can best serve you.

Call the *Hawaii Marine* staff at 257-8836 or 257-8837 for more details.

Register to vote

Below is a list of helpful Web sites providing information about voting:

- www.manpower.usmc.mil, select “Personal and Family Readiness,” then select “Voting.”
- www.fvap.gov
- www.vote-smart.org
- www.republicansabroad.org
- www.democratsabroad.org
- www.fvap.gov/pubs/howtoinfo.html
- www.fvap.gov/pubs/faq.html

Lost & Found Items at MPD

If you are missing valuables or other items, contact Lost and Found at the Military Police Department, to see if anyone has turned in the item(s).

Lost items on hand include ID cards, bicycles, wallets, keys, cell phones and miscellaneous jewelry. An inquiry log is maintained for all item(s) retrieved.

Call 257-8556, ext. 315, for prompt assistance.

CFC Drive Continues

The Combined Federal Campaign will run through Oct. 19. The mission of the CFC is to support and to promote philanthropy through a voluntary program that is employee-focused, cost-efficient and effective in providing all Federal employees the opportunity to improve the quality of life for all. Contact your unit representative for additional information.

Important Phone Numbers

On-Base Emergencies	257-9111
Military Police	257-7114
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Business Management Hotline	257-3188
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380

Hawaii MARINE

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Base Sergeant Major
Public Affairs Officer
Public Affairs Chief
Managing Editor
Press Chief
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Sports Editor
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Staff Writer
Lifestyles Editor
News Editor

Brig. Gen. George J. Trautman III
Sgt. Maj. Anthony E. Franks
Maj. Patricia Johnson
Gunnery Sgt. Claudia LaMantia
Staff Sgt. Ronna M. Weyland
Sgt. Jerome L. Edwards
Sgt. Joseph Lee
Sgt. Joe Lindsay
Cpl. Jessica M. Mills
Cpl. Megan L. Stiner
Lance Cpl. Michelle M. Dickson
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Susana Choy
Kristin Herrick

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MCB HAWAII, KANEOHE BAY, HAWAII 96863
E-MAIL: EDITOR@HAWAIIIMARINE.COM
FAX: 257-1289, PHONE: 257-8836

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The *Hawaii Marine* welcomes comments for the “Letters to the Editor” section. Letters should be clear and concise. The *Hawaii Marine* staff reserves the right to edit letters for clarity and length. Comments must be signed with a full name and a telephone number must be provided.

E-Mail: editor@hawaii-marine.com, with “Letters to the Editor” in the subject line.

Mail: Public Affairs Office
Letters to the Editor
Bldg. 216, Box 63002
MCB Hawaii 96863

Fax: 808-257-1289

Spouses new to Corps need guidance

I am the proud wife of a Marine. In the year I have been married to the Marine Corps, I have had countless wonderful experiences. I am constantly in awe of the dedication, the support of fellow Marines and the pride my Marine and all Marines display.

More importantly I am grateful the Marine Corps family has embraced me in a way I had not expected. Many of the spouses I have had the fortune to meet have been intelligent, independent and supportive. They have to be. We have all married into the Marine Corps. And with that comes the challenging lifestyle. Yet, or perhaps because

of that, they have offered me support, their friendship, their guidance and have proven to be role models for me. The Marine Corps is in all senses of the word a “family.” I truly feel I am embraced for who I am, as an equal, independent woman.

It is unfortunate then that there are some spouses who smudge this notion of family we have all come to love. There are spouses who wear their Marine’s rank. They have been in the Marine Corps longer and so behave as though this entitles them to hold power over new spouses. There are those out there who have attempted to intimidate those spouses new to the family. These new spouses being preyed upon are less likely to become active members of our loved family after such experiences. They are driven away by scare tactics and out-ranking spouses.

These new spouses are those that will, in time, be the ones with the experience and knowledge to guide future new family members through the Marine Corps. But, where will they be? If intimidation is the answer for some and they continue to wear their Marine’s rank, then what is the future of the Marine family? What part will the strong, independent and intelligent spouses play? Where will they be? It wouldn’t be surprising if the family weakened because they want nothing to do with it after such uncomfortable experiences. And it would be a shame.

As a new member to the fam-

ily, I encourage those of you with more years in the family to support, offer guidance, mentor, listen and embrace new family members. It’s you who are our role models, who we will mold ourselves to be like and emulate in all that is virtuous. For those of you out there who already are mentors in your own right, we thank you and are proud to be part of the family with you.

Semper Fidelis,
Lucia Broekhuizen

Spouses do not have rank

Have you ever been to one of those spouses’ seminars, sometimes referred to as “Charm School?” One of the first things the seminar leader has you do is “line up according to rank.” Invariably, the majority of spouses will begin to scramble around, asking other people their Marine’s rank, and making sure they are in the right order. The seminar leader proceeds to tell them they are WRONG! A collective gasp from the group is followed by a news flash — SPOUSES DO NOT HAVE RANK! Duh!

It seems like common sense. Of course we don’t have rank. We are not active duty members of the Marine Corps. We don’t get promoted year after year. We don’t wear the uniform. We don’t leave our children to go in harm’s way. So, why are there still spouses out there who think they should be endowed with the same power and privilege

afforded to their Marine? Why must they continue to attempt to intimidate and control other spouses simply by virtue of their Marine’s rank?

Today’s Marine spouse is savvy. Most have college educations. Many have successful careers and/or families. All have chosen a challenging lifestyle by hooking up with a Marine. Consequently, most are strong and independent. They have to be. To be a Marine spouse means to be part of a unique sisterhood. Note the use of the term “sister.” Not aunt, not grandmother, not mother, not guardian. Sisters. Siblings. Equals. Peers. As sisters, we live the same chaotic lifestyle. We understand the challenges that are inherent to the Marine Corps family. We are willing to help our sisters when they need us.

As some of us become seasoned, we should be proud to share our experience and knowledge with those new to our family. A seasoned spouse is someone who, in most cases, has spent more years as a Marine spouse, been more places, moved more times, survived more deployments, and has more Birthday Ball glasses (and probably more gray hair).

As with any family, those who have been a member longer are the best source of information and encouragement. Unfortunately, some seasoned spouses seem to believe knowl-

See *LETTERS, A-5*



Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon

Sgt. Maj. Royce G. Coffee (right) handed his post, U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, to Sgt. Maj. Lawrence E. Thompson during a post and relief ceremony held at Bordelon Field, Sept. 24.

Cpl. Danielle M. Bacon
Marine Forces Pacific

U.S. MARINE CORPS FORCES PACIFIC, Camp H.M. Smith, Hawaii —During a post and relief ceremony held at Bordelon field, the sergeant major of U.S. Marine Corps Forces Pacific, Sgt. Maj. Royce G. Coffee, transferred his sword and post to Sgt. Maj. Lawrence E. Thompson, Friday.

The sergeant major is headed to the U.S. Pacific Command to help with the Pacific Theater Noncommissioned Officer Development Program. He will aid in developing and implementing the training of NCOs from our allied nation’s militaries.

“We would like to show them some things. Teach them that NCOs can become more meaningful. We want to teach NCOs how to reach their full potential,” said Coffee. “We want to set standards and give them a chance to exceed those standards”

He added, “We will also be teaching the officers to recognize NCOs’ abilities. It really is a combined effort.”

During his parting speech, Coffee almost skipped the most important part — thanking his wife.

“Everything I said, I had prepared months ago,” said Coffee. “I just can’t believe I forgot to mention her, but there was no way I wasn’t going to get back up there and say something.”

Coffee met his wife Kathleen on a blind date while stationed at Camp Pendleton, Calif.

“Some friends set us up. A buddy of his who was married to one of my friends — they set us up,” said Kathleen, who admitted to falling in love with his green eyes.

“Later she found out they were contacts, but that didn’t stop her from marrying the young staff sergeant and joining him on all of his Marine Corps adventures.

Of their many adventures, the trip to Okinawa was one of her most memorable.

“It was such a culture shock. It was the first time I had left the states. We were in a foreign country. We didn’t know what we were doing,” said Kathleen who credits Coffee’s parents for their adjust-

ment to the new culture. “Thank the lord for his mom and dad, because they were there.”

She added, “It was an experience we will never, never forget.”

This adventure is no different.

“The Coffees are going on a new adventure. It is not the end of our military career yet, and hopefully the sergeant major and I will be able to do more good for the Corps,” said Kathleen.

Coffee always knew he would join the Marine Corps.

“There were really two reasons.

From reading the history, I knew that if I was ever in trouble another Marine would take care of me,” said Coffee. “I also joined for two simple words — ‘Semper Fidelis’, Always Faithful.”

Although Coffee’s father was a soldier, he still interacted with Marines as a child.

“As a boy scout in Okinawa, my troop advisors were young Marines. They looked old to me at the time,” said Coffee. “I really liked their discipline and the way they looked. As I got older and decided to join the service, there was never a question as to which branch I would choose.”

The pride of serving is shared throughout his family.

“I think it is an honor for me to be in the Corps with him as his partner. It has been my privilege, and hopefully I gave back. I felt I owed that, because the Corps has given us so much,” said Kathleen. “So hopefully we gave back enough to the young people.”

It is to this attitude that Coffee attributes his success.

“There is no way I could have done this without her. She made it all possible. We are best friends – best buddies. She really is my touchstone to reality. The way our marriage has worked for so many years is for the simple fact that when one of us is down, the other one is up,” said Coffee.

“We sort of balance each other out. One is pulling and one is pushing to make this thing work. We are a great team. When I report in, it is like “Team Coffee” shows up. Bottom line is I really couldn’t have been successful as a Marine or really anything else if it wasn’t for her support.”

Word on the street

“What thing will you never share?”



Ronnie Matthews
Firefighter
Federal Fire

“I won’t share my boxers.”



Cpl. Daniel Joseph Aulph
CMD Clerk
MALS-24 Supply

“The last beer or last piece of pizza.”



Lance Cpl. Christopher Barbar
Field Radio Operator
CSSG-3

“I won’t share my kids.”



Keri Escobedo
Manager
Subway

“I won’t share my time.”



Cpl. Jeff Hiles
Aviation Supply Clerk
MALS-24

“My underwear, because it’s nasty.”

DUIs are career killers

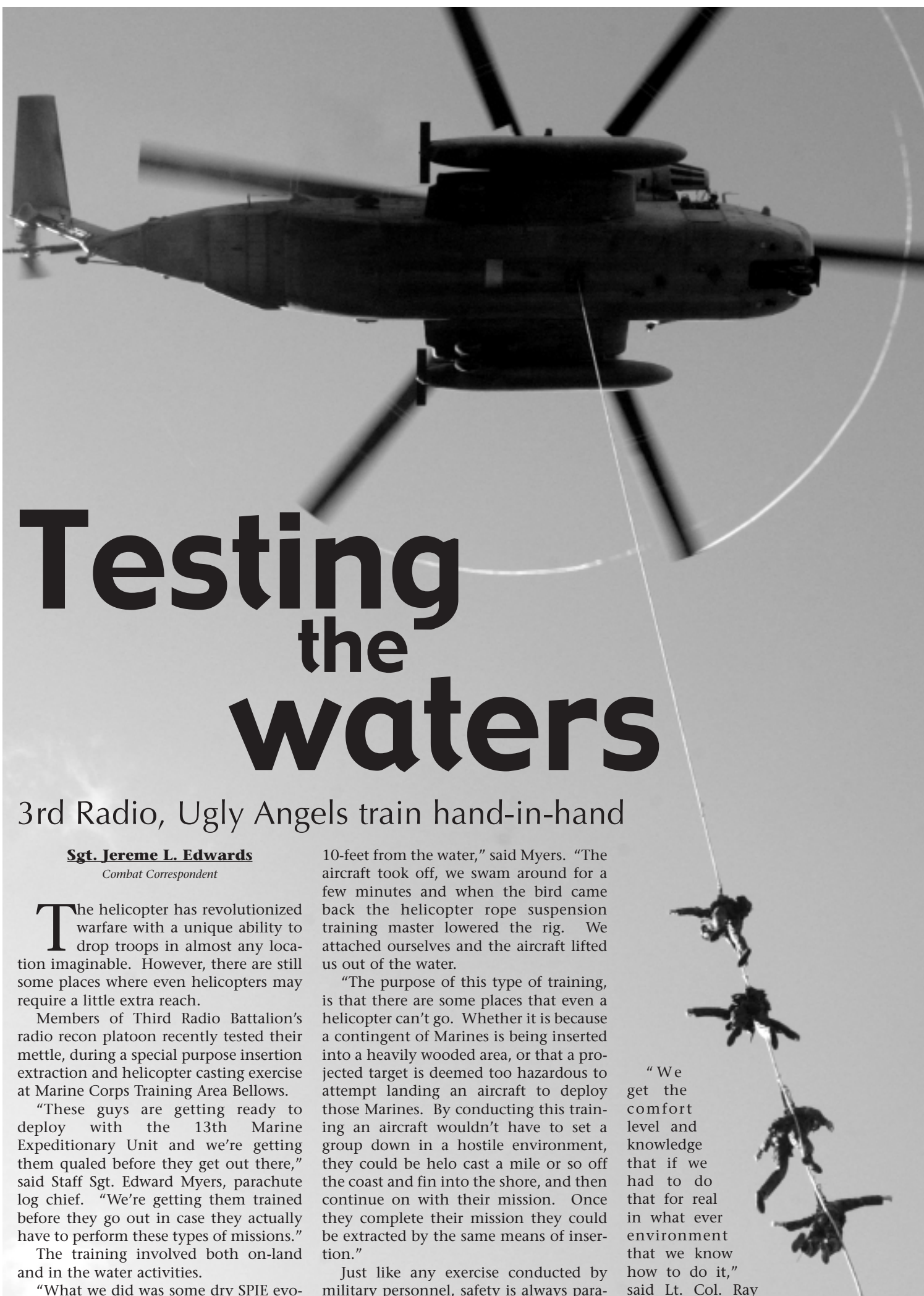
*(Editor’s Note: Per the commanding general of MCB Hawaii, those arrested for driving under the influence [DUI], driving while intoxicated or drug-related offenses shall be publicized in the **Hawaii Marine** newspaper.)*

•Sept. 16, Lance Cpl. Juan D. Sepulveda of Combat Service Support Group 3 Supply, for driving under the influence with a blood alcohol content of .103 percent.
•Sept. 23, Pfc. Yeshua Taylor of Lima Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Reg-

iment, for DUI with a BAC of .46 percent.

•Sept. 25, Seaman Robert A. Mendel of Patrol Squadron Special Unit 2, for DUI with a BAC of .138 percent.

•Sept. 25, a 33 year-old civilian, for DUI with a BAC of .06 percent.



Testing the waters

3rd Radio, Ugly Angels train hand-in-hand

Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Combat Correspondent

The helicopter has revolutionized warfare with a unique ability to drop troops in almost any location imaginable. However, there are still some places where even helicopters may require a little extra reach.

Members of Third Radio Battalion's radio recon platoon recently tested their mettle, during a special purpose insertion extraction and helicopter casting exercise at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.

"These guys are getting ready to deploy with the 13th Marine Expeditionary Unit and we're getting them qualed before they get out there," said Staff Sgt. Edward Myers, parachute log chief. "We're getting them trained before they go out in case they actually have to perform these types of missions."

The training involved both on-land and in the water activities.

"What we did was some dry SPIE evolutions for training purposes, helo cast inserts and extract by means of wet SPIE," said Myers. "We did the dry SPIE evolutions to train the guys to do it properly on dry land, because when you're in the water things are a lot more complicated, and we want to ensure the guys are fully comfortable with their gear."

Once the insertion extraction exercises were complete, the training evolution took a new spin.

"The helo casting is basically no more than when [you] jump out of the helicopter going about 10 knots and about

10-feet from the water," said Myers. "The aircraft took off, we swam around for a few minutes and when the bird came back the helicopter rope suspension training master lowered the rig. We attached ourselves and the aircraft lifted us out of the water."

"The purpose of this type of training, is that there are some places that even a helicopter can't go. Whether it is because a contingent of Marines is being inserted into a heavily wooded area, or that a projected target is deemed too hazardous to attempt landing an aircraft to deploy those Marines. By conducting this training an aircraft wouldn't have to set a group down in a hostile environment, they could be helo cast a mile or so off the coast and fin into the shore, and then continue on with their mission. Once they complete their mission they could be extracted by the same means of insertion."

Just like any exercise conducted by military personnel, safety is always paramount; SPIE, and helo casting exercises are no different.

"First off, we prepare a six-to seven-page operational risk management assessment to ensure the training mission is safe," said Myers. "We also provide the Marines with the necessary training and gear prior to the actual exercise to ensure they are prepared to complete the training evolution."

However, this type of training isn't just for the Marines who are learning the ropes of SPIE. It is great training for the pilots as well.

"We get the comfort level and knowledge that if we had to do that for real in what ever environment that we know how to do it," said Lt. Col. Ray

L'Heureux, commanding officer of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362. "There are certain intricacies that you have to know how to fly and to what profile."

This is also a time for the co-pilot to gain experience.

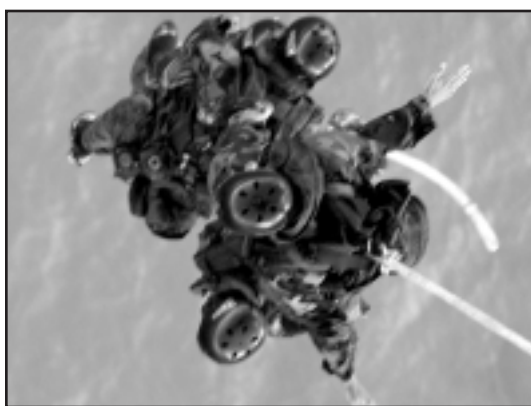
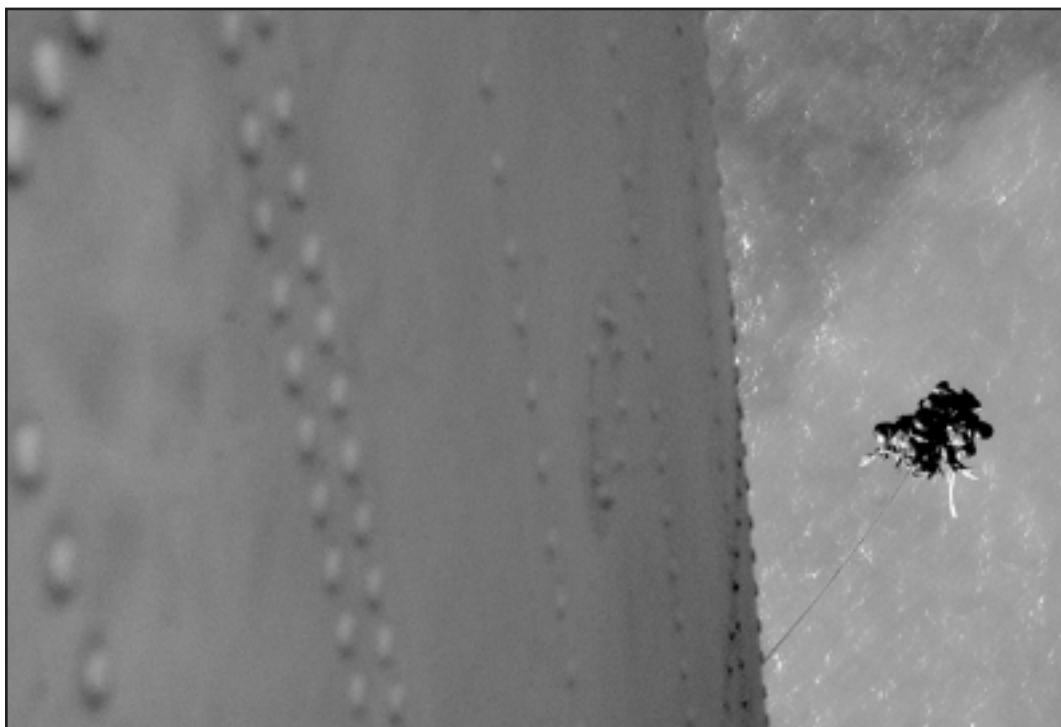
"I've flown many of these missions," said L'Heureux. "However, my co-pilot had never done it, so now he got to see what is entailed. I have no problem and every confidence in the world sending him out to do the same type of mission tomorrow as the aircraft commander."



Above — Members of 3rd Radio Battalion's radio recon platoon wait for the CH-53D Sea Stallion to swing around and pick them up during helo casting at Bellows.

Left — 3rd Battalion radio recon platoon Marines soar through the air via SPIE rig during a training evolution Sept. 22.

Below — Aircraft 71 with Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 262, the Ugly Angels, begins its ascent during a SPIE rigging training evolution at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Above and right — Members of 3rd Radio Battalion's radio recon platoon dangle from a SPIE rig cable attached to a CH-53D Sea Stallion during a training evolution at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows.



Marines from 3rd Radio Battalion's radio recon platoon jump off the loading ramp of an airborne CH-53D Sea Stallion during a helo casting evolution at Marine Corps Training Area Bellows Sept. 22.



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Cpl. Josh Eggers, a military police FAP Marine from Fox Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, struggles to kneel a training pad at one of the four stations Marines must run through after being sprayed by OC.

SHEARWATERS, From A-1

These are salt water birds, so fresh water could really hurt them. People have to realize that disrupting these birds’ natural habitat could possibly harm or kill them.”

A fine will be issued to anyone who

injuries the Wedge-tailed Shearwater, no matter what the scenario, according to State Wildlife and Fishing regulations, According to Trott, the fledgling fledging Shearwaters are just learning how to fly, so they stay in the air until they are exhausted and land wherever they have to.

Last season, many birds were spotted on or around the Marine Corps Air Facility flight line and the housing areas adjacent to North Beach.

When the game wardens do pick up the fledgling Shearwaters, they transport them to the Sea Life Park bird sanctuary, located in Waimanalo, where they are rehabilitated and released back into the wild.

“We bring all of the web-footed protected birds we find outside of their habitat to Sea Life Park,” said Cpl. Jeremy Hauuffman, game warden for MCB Hawaii, Kaneohe Bay. “On the average week, I visit the park about two times a week. But once the fledgling season hits, I am there almost daily. We have a good working relationship with them, and have helped many protected birds through our efforts.”

If you do find a Wedge-tailed Shearwater that has landed in your vicinity, call the Game Warden’s Office immediately at 257-1821, or contact the Environmental Protection and Compliance Department at 257-6920.

FAPS: Taking charge of the gates

From A-1

taught in the classroom.

“We learned the basics for any situation we may be put into,” said Galloway. “But until we actually get out there, we won’t know exactly how to respond to everything.”

Each student must endure hours of practical application on a gate, with supervision from experienced Marines, before being able to assume the full position as a regular gate sentry.

“The knowledge that those [experienced] Marines will pass on to us will help a great deal,” said Galloway. “They have been out there, doing their job for quite a while, and they know things we don’t.”

Although some Marines weren’t too excited to leave their units and take on this new responsibility, others, like Galloway, embraced the idea of helping to keep the base safe and secure while also learning something new.

“I think it is a unfortunate that some individuals don’t want to be here,” said Galloway.

“This is a good opportunity to learn another aspect of life in the Marine Corps. I intend to make the most of it while I am on the gate. I have already learned a lot, and I aim on making this a good experience.”



Cpl. Megan L. Stiner

Cpl. Eric Sheffield, a military police FAP Marine from Golf Company, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, receives a dose of OC spray from 1st Lt. Tito Jones, assistant operations officer for the Provost Marshals Office.



Sgt. Jereme L. Edwards

Marines with the ceremonial detail march to the USS Utah memorial Tuesday during a military honors ceremony for the late Marine Tech. Sgt. Charles A. McCoy, a Pearl Harbor survivor.

MCCOY, From A-1

locked the company armory and was still on liberty when the attack occurred, and consequently had the keys to the armory with him. McCoy, along with other Marines, broke into the armory through the walls and doors to arm themselves.

During the war, McCoy served on Midway, Guadalcanal, Guam and Okinawa, mostly doing signal corps and radio-related duties. McCoy was honorably discharged in 1945, but continued to serve with the Marine reserves until the 1960s, attaining the rank of

major.

McCoy died at the age of 83, still an active member of several Marine Corps associations.

“My father was a simple man,” said Richard McCoy. “He didn’t want to have a memorial or military service after he died. He simply wanted to have his ashes scattered at sea, but I knew he deserved more and thanks to family members, the Fleet Reserve Association and the Marine Corps, it was able to be done.”

SALUTES

HMH-362 Good Conduct Awards

Sgt. Maj. Walter Howell, 8th
Master Sgt. Luis Gonzales, 8th
Staff Sgt. Jason Burroughs, 4th
Staff Sgt. Lee Clark, 3rd
Sgt. Daniel Anderson, 2nd
Sgt. Shane George, 2nd
Cpl. Vincent Lucario Jr., 1st
Cpl. Charles Wahlquist, 1st
Lance Cpl. Wilber Johnson, 1st

(Units wanting to submit information for "Salutes" should send an e-mail to editor@hawaiimarine.com or call 257-8836.)

3RD RADIO: ‘We always have Marines spread out all over the globe’

From A-1

so that they could be among the first to welcome home the brave men and women.

Everyone in the crowd had their own story to tell, from newlyweds who missed their first of year of marriage, to newborns who waited with their mothers to see their father for the first time. Stories like these have become common among the military community, as has the wrenching emotion each family feels.

“I’m very nervous and excited about seeing him again. We are still like newlyweds. We have been married two years, but we have only seen each other about one,” said Cpl. Tiffany Rose, a radio repairman for Maintenance Company, Combat Service Support Group 3. “Even though I will cry the minute I see him, I am very proud of him. He does what a majority of Americans don’t get to do.”

The Key Volunteers Network also put in a lot of time and effort to welcome home the single Marines and Sailors. The spouses and key volunteers baked cookies for them, and made their beds in the barracks, so they could just relax when they came home. Marine Corps Community Services provided welcome home bags for all the returning troops, which included coupons for free items aboard the base.

For some in the unit, this deployment was the second time around for them in the Persian Gulf, and although there will be down time, the future may hold more operations like this.

“The way that 3rd Radio Battalion operates, we always have Marines spread out all over the globe, supporting different missions. So, for some of our men and women, it could be a matter of months before they are called again; for others it could be more than a year,” said Capt. Debra Gomez, the adjutant for 3rd Radio Battalion. “It really depends on the needs of the Marine Corps and outcome of future operations.”



Sgt. James Viator, with 3rd Radio Battalion, holds tight to his daughter Izabelle, 3, Sept. 23, after his unit returned from a seven-month deployment to Iraq in support of the 1st MEF.



Above — Sgt. Bryan Bouldin is reunited with his son Max, 1, Sept. 23, when his unit, 3rd Radio Battalion, returned to Oahu after a seven-month deployment to Iraq.

Below — Marines, friends and family waiting to welcome 3rd Radio Battalion members home, helped unload the unit’s gear so that they could relax when they arrived.



LETTERS, From A-2

edge and experience translates into power. Some attempt to use this power to intimidate and control other spouses. This type of behavior is extremely detrimental to the Marine Corps family.

A spouse who has been bullied by another spouse will be less likely to become actively involved in the sisterhood. In short, we lose them. We cannot afford to run off our new sisters. They are the ones who will carry the torch when we have retired and moved on. They are the ones with the optimistic eagerness to be a part of an ever-changing Marine Corps, complete with the hardships and joys so rare in the civilian world. They are the ones who will strive to improve the quality of life for other Marine families. They are the ones who will, someday, mentor another new sister and continue the cycle.

If you are a seasoned spouse, your mission should be to welcome your younger sisters with open arms and hearts. This mission cannot be accomplished with threats, intimidation, or “rank pulling.” This mission can only be completed when all spouses, of all ranks, respect each other and treat each other as equals. Respect is earned, not granted automatically because of age and experience. Friendship bred in fear is a no-win relationship. Embrace your sisters, but don’t smother them. Guide them, but don’t command them. Encourage them, but don’t criticize them. In others words, be the kind of seasoned spouse you would have liked to meet in your early years in the sisterhood. Be a friend and mentor, not an evil step-sister.

Semper Fidelis to all my Sisters in the Corps.

Bethany T. Howard
Honolulu

3/3 braves cold, altitude

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. — Ascending to a lung-straining elevation of more than 10,000 feet to Landing Zone Penguin, “America’s Battalion” set up camp and set in defense as part of a field-training scenario last week.

With the entire 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment setting up for business in a single scenario, none of the Marines seemed to mind the extra breaths the thin air required.

“I’m pretty amped to be out here,” said Pfc. Justin Bennett, a Weapons Company 81mm mortarman. “It’s cool to be able to put what we’ve been doing into practice,” said the dark-haired Panama City Beach, Fla. native, never taking eyes off his field of fire.

In this particular scenario, the Marines were watching five mountain trails into an area representing the Pakistan-Afghani border. Intelligence reports had suggested anti-coalition forces might be smuggling weapons across the border, setting up caches where hostile forces might later retrieve them.

But it wasn’t only the ever-watchful Marines on patrol who got to put some new skills to the test.

“I’m out here monitoring the water supply and making sure my Marines are okay,” said Petty Officer 3rd Class Daniel Bookwalter, 3/3 hospital corpsman, hopping from rock to rock over a frigid mountain stream. “It’s helping keep me busy, and I can keep good track of everyone in the cold weather if I keep moving.”

In the early morning light on the second day of the FEX, a page directly from the Small Wars Manual, a sixty-year-old Marine Corps Publication that retains a fierce devotion for its timeless insights into military operations other than war, was brought to life.

The Marines braved the frosted morning to load a team of four mules with enough meals ready to eat and water to resupply an entire infantry line company.

“We’re actually using a lot of pack animals over in Afghanistan right now,” said Staff Sgt. Gil Sandoval, head wrangler, Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center, Bridgeport, Calif. The former sniper explained Marines will have to learn how to purchase and handle local animals once they get in country.

“Part of learning about animal packing is learning how to improvise,” said Sandoval. “You never know exactly what you might run into — you might have to pack a camel or other animal you weren’t expecting to use.”

The mules, amenable enough to being loaded with up to one-third of their own body weight (often upward of 300 pounds a load), didn’t always go just where they were supposed to, giving the Marines a difficult time maneuvering.

Commenting on the mules’ tenacity, Gunnery Sgt. O. Russell Lucas, motor-transport chief, 3/3, compared his equine charges with some of his two-legged workers.



Horses proudly display tack emblazoned with “USMC.”

“It’s just like working with Marines. They’re difficult and stubborn, but they get the job done every time,” said Lucas.

America’s Battalion plans to end its pre-deployment package with a battalion-level movement, simulating another real-world scenario.

Lance Cpl. Armando Perlaza, wireman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, keeps a steadfast watch from behind his M249 Squad Automatic Weapon while manning a defensive position during field operations at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. Marines from “America’s Battalion” braved frigid temperatures and the thin air of high altitudes at Landing Zone Penguin last week during field training exercises.



3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment Marines learn how to handle animals they may have to use to transport beans and bullets in a combat zone during a field exercise at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.



‘America’s Battalion’ learns the ropes



Lance Cpl. Mark Skorup, rifleman with 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, rappels down a rock face during training at Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif. The Marines of “America’s Battalion” learned the ups and downs of mountain warfare while preparing for a possible upcoming deployment.

Story and Photos By
Pfc. Rich Mattingly
Combat Correspondent

MARINE CORPS MOUNTAIN WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, Calif. — Moving from hot to cold, Marines from “America’s Battalion” train in the frigid climbs of Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center in Bridgeport, Calif.

The first exercise of a three-part training package at MWTC was designed to give Marines from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marines another set of valuable tools for locating and destroying the enemy in mountainous terrain.

Prepared with their “snivel” gear, and they quickly acclimated to some of the colder weather they may soon experience, all while learning the “ropes” of mountain warfare.

“What we’re doing right now is putting all of our Marines through mountain skills training,” said Capt. Andrew Priddy, battalion operations officer with 3/3. “This first part of training has them learning rappelling, rope bridge building, and steep slope traversing and movement,” he continued.

The mountain warfare training itself was a standard package by MWTC standards. However, 3/3 put a twist on things by training on the fire team, rather than on the squad or platoon, level.

“We’ve pulled a fire team from each squad in each company to attend certain elements of the training,” said Priddy. “We might find ourselves in a position where we need to use squads to complete a mission, and we have to give ourselves the best chance of success by task-organizing to the lowest levels. We have to have that flexibility.”

After some knot-tying and cold-weather survival skills classes,

America’s Battalion “rucked” up and humped out through the Sierra Nevada Mountains to its first training site. Among the tall pines and towering rock faces, it was three days and two nights of serious training.

The Marines learned how to climb and rappel while carrying their weapons and assault load, how to traverse a river or gorge using only ropes and how to assess slope terrain features.

“This is great training for where they’re going,” said Sgt. Daniel Blackwell, unit operations instructor at MWTC and former 3rd

Marine Regiment grunt. “Most of them haven’t been exposed to anything like this, and they’ll be able to see the real-world applications of this training very soon.”

The Marines took to the training well, running through drill after drill, perfecting their clove hitches and “swiss” seats.

“It’s pretty cool,” said Lance Cpl. Steven Mullins, rifleman with Kilo Co., who was being trained in traversing obstacles with ropes. “Normally, we’d have to shoot a re-direct or go around a river or canyon. Now we go straight across.”

Above — Sgt. Christopher Bloom, squad leader, 1st Platoon, Kilo Company, 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, hauls in a .50 caliber machine gun his “mule” team had just finished pulling up the side of a mountain at the Marine Corps Mountain Warfare Training Center.

Right — Marines learned various techniques for traversing mountainous terrain using readily available ropes and knot-tying techniques.